

Introduced Version

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## HOUSE RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_

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*Introduced by: Kersey, Chowning, LaPlante, Grubb,  
Thomas*

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A RESOLUTION honoring Larry Bird.

*Whereas, Larry Bird, one of Indiana's most well known  
favorite sons, was born December 7, 1956, in West Baden,  
Indiana;*

*Whereas, Larry Bird attended Springs Valley High School  
and Indiana State University;*

*Whereas, Larry Bird, an Indiana basketball legend, is  
arguably the most recognizable alumnus of Indiana State*

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20042543



*University;*

*Whereas, Larry Bird was a 1978 and 1979 consensus All-American, the 1979 Sporting News Player of the Year, the 1978 and 1979 Missouri Valley Conference Player of the Year, and the fifth all-time leading NCAA scorer with an average of 30.3 points per game;*

*Whereas, While attending Indiana State University, Larry Bird scored more than 40 points in a game 15 times, more than 30 points 49 times, and more than 20 points 87 out of 94 games;*

*Whereas, At Indiana State University, Larry Bird played on teams that compiled an 81-13 record and a 50 -1 record at home, led Indiana State to the 1979 NCAA finals, and was named the John Wooden Award winner in 1979;*

*Whereas, As an eligible junior, Larry Bird was drafted by the Boston Celtics in the first-round of the 1978 draft and was the sixth pick overall;*

*Whereas, Larry Bird enjoyed an outstanding career in the National Basketball Association, being voted the NBA Rookie of the Year in 1980 and a member of the All-Rookie Team, the All-NBA First Team each of his first nine years in the league, and the All-Star team 12 times;*

*Whereas, Larry Bird was named the MVP of the All-Star game in 1982, playoff MVP in 1984 and 1986, and the regular season MVP in 1984, 1985, and 1986, making him one of only three players in NBA history to be named the regular season MVP for three consecutive seasons;*

*Whereas, Larry Bird is the only Celtic to score more than 2,000 points in three consecutive seasons and is the NBA's twelfth all-time scorer;*

*Whereas, Perhaps the events that best represent Larry Bird's strong desire to compete and win are the miraculous*

20042543



*steal of Detroit Piston Isaiah Thomas' inbound pass with five seconds left in the game to give Boston a victory in game five of the 1987 playoff series and his Superman-like return after a serious fall to the floor in the fifth game of the 1991 playoff series against the Indiana Pacers;*

*Whereas, In addition to his play in the NBA, Larry Bird was cocaptain of the 1992 Gold Medal winning Olympic team that came to be known as the "Dream Team";*

*Whereas, After retiring from the NBA as a player, Larry Bird returned as the head coach of the Indiana Pacers in the 1997-1998 season;*

*Whereas, As head coach, Larry Bird led the Pacers to the Eastern Conference finals in 1998 and 1999;*

*Whereas, In 1998, the Pacers forced the Michael Jordan-led Chicago Bulls to a seven-game series, and in 1999, the Pacers won the Central Division championship for the second time in their NBA history;*

*Whereas, In the 1999-2000 season, the Pacers won the Eastern Conference Championship and went to the NBA Finals during which the Los Angeles Lakers, led by that year's most valuable player, Shaquille O'Neal, won the championship; and*

*Whereas, Larry Bird came from humble beginnings in a small southern Indiana town and achieved greatness both on and off the court: Therefore,*

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

- 1           SECTION 1. That the Indiana House of Representatives recognizes
- 2           Larry Bird for his many accomplishments and thanks him for the
- 3           countless hours of pleasure he has given to the fans of Indiana State
- 4           and NBA basketball.
- 5           SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of
- 6           Representatives transmit a copy of this resolution to Larry Bird, Indiana
- 7           State Director of Athletics Andrea Myers, and Indiana State University



1 President Lloyd W. Benjamin III.

